

Anti-Slavery Office,
New York, 2 March, 1865.

Dear May,

The copy of the Report came in
due time and in good order. The 150 extra
papers you ordered will go in the bun-
dle.

I cannot do justice to my feelings
without telling you how much I like the
report. It is eminently right in sentiment
and feeling, saying neither too little nor too
much, and, ^{rhetorically} very felicitous. ^{Your allusion} ~~is~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{of}
~~rhetoric~~ to old friends who stood aloof from
the effort to keep the Society's organ
alive is just what was due alike to
them and to us. It is a rebuke, likely to
be all the more effective for its gentleness.

The refusal of the New Jersey Legis-
lature to ratify the Amendment shows that

the work of our Society is not yet accom-
plished, nor likely to be for some time to
come. It will be generally agreed, I think,
that it is very desirable to keep the Standard
alive to the end of the conflict, that its
pages may bear record of the triumph
of the cause to which it is devoted,
and give forth the jubilee shout. In
my judgment it will be a great mis-
take if we allow anything but ^{stern} necessity
to stop it a single day before the rati-
fication of the great Amendment is
officially announced. How far the
money now raised will carry us, I
do not know; but I think the Committee
should at once take account of the
means in their hands as compared with
current expenses, and then, before ~~quitting~~
concluding to stop the paper at the end
of the volume or soon afterwards, take
the advice of the subscribers and

friends. This might be done in one of two ways—by an open statement in the Standard, or in a circular addressed to prominent friends in different parts of the country. If the Committee are of opinion that it is important or desirable to continue the paper say till the end of the volume, May 1866, they should state the reasons for this opinion ~~say so~~ and appeal to our friends for the necessary funds. If they are doubtful as to what it is desirable to do, they should ask for advice, to be communicated to them promptly by letter; and if the question is not practically decided before the annual meeting, the members of the Society should be urged to come to that meeting to aid in deciding it.

The stoppage of the paper would be a great relief to me in many respects.

I could doubtless earn more money with
less work and responsibility in some
other journals, but as one of those who
~~have~~ been in the cause from the very
beginning, I am anxious to be in it to the
end, and ~~I~~ ambitious to make the
end glorious. If the Standard is
killed, the Society after that ~~can~~ have
only "a name to live," without the reality.
Of course, if we can't go on with the
paper, we can't, and there must be an
end; but I think it desirable to keep
our flag flying to the day of jubilee.
formal continuance of the Society, with
its organ of communication with the public.
I could be reconciled ~~to~~ as an un-
avoidable calamity; but I think we ought
to do our utmost to avert such a ne-
cessity, and my belief is, that if the Executive
Committee will look the matter squarely
in the face and call on the friends
of the Society and the paper for advice,

they will be cheered and encouraged by the result.

The receipts ^{of the Festival,} I find, are just \$1,200 less than they were last year—a result which, I think, should not by any means discourage us. That the defection of Phillips and his followers ~~should~~ had no worse effect is matter for congratulation. That defection has probably spent itself, and if we go on, we may reasonably calculate upon the aid of some of those now standing aloof. Indeed I think that Phillips ^{may} ~~will~~ yet come to himself and once more lend us his aid. But even if these hopes should be disappointed, I believe we may depend on the friends of the cause to help us to the end.

While I was writing the above Aaron Powell came in, and we canvassed the whole question together. He

bade me give his love to you and
to express for him the hope that the
Committee will proceed on the as-
sumption that the continuance of the
Standard being not only desirable but
important, its friends will not let
it stop for want of means.

To stop at the end of this volume
would seem to me very unwise; and
~~so~~ since there is need of going on
for at least part of another year,
my idea is that we should struggle to
complete one volume more. By
that time we can lay the topstone
with shoutings and make the death
of the paper worthy of its life.

I have written this with a
weary hand and overstaxed brain,
and I know that I have expressed
myself awkwardly; but I have given

you my thoughts upon the ~~practical~~ practical
issue before the Society in words which
you will understand, and remain

Yours, always,

Oliver Johnson.

P.S. I have asked Mr. Thompson
for the M.S. of his Music Hall
address.

